

your reviewer concluded it presented a detailed historical account of the evolution of the gynecologic specialty rather than just a story of the development of techniques and instruments.

The book contains a multitude of minor and major events in the development of gynecology compiled in chronologic order and documented in the most precise and elaborate fashion quite in the manner of the great German handbooks and in many respects equally dry as far as the presentation of the subject is concerned. That is why your reviewer stated in his introduction that he found it not easy to stick to the job. The author seldom, if ever, ventures an analysis or a philosophic approach to his subject. He just recites facts as they have been recorded over the centuries. Any reading matter as encyclopedic in character makes for dry reading. Yet, there is real merit to Ricci's labors, for the compilation of the reference material alone is worth the price of the book for anybody interested in the history of medicine in general and in gynecology and obstetrics in particular. It would be interesting to know how long it took to complete the job of putting the material into readable form and how many helpers it required to abstract the vast number of references cited. There are several thousands of them and many are given verbatim. Besides, the book teems with illustrations taken from the great standard works on medical history, sometimes with needless duplication, but always reproduced with faultless precision. Also that makes the book an attractive item for any reference library.

Your reviewer has wondered why Ricci insisted on spelling gynecology, "gynaecology" throughout the book. The British do for reasons of tradition. American medical English has done away with it. Perhaps the author did it to reflect the antiquity of his subject. That is the way of man. Twelve dollars is a most reasonable price for Ricci's monumental compilation. Your reviewer recommends it as a valuable addition to your learned library.

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THE EYE AND ITS DISEASES. By 92 International Authorities. Edited by Conrad Berens, M.D. Second Edition, with 436 illustrations, 8 in color. W. B. Saunders, Philadelphia, 1949. \$16.00.

This book is in its second edition with a new type of format. The contributors are leaders in the field of ophthalmology, which in itself indicates the type of subject matter in the book.

The arrangement of the index and the subject matter makes this book unusually readable. The book is divided into 76 chapters with 92 contributors.

The book begins with an interesting resumé of ophthalmology from 2250 B.C. to 1949 A.D. The subject matter is very inclusive although not detailed. The print is easily read and the subject matter unusually well arranged.

This is an excellent book for a busy clinician as well as a student.

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AN ATLAS OF THE BLOOD AND BONE MARROW. By R. Philip Custer, M.D., Director, Laboratories of the Presbyterian Hospital in Philadelphia; Assistant Professor of Pathology, University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine; Consultant to the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology. 285 illustrations, 42 in color. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1949. \$15.00.

This volume is apparently intended to supplement rather than to replace previous hematologic atlases. Nevertheless, it is a major contribution to the literature since it represents the summation of a long and thoughtful experience in the pathologic diagnosis of hematologic disorders. Although the author recognizes the value of marrow smears and imprints for the study of precise morphologic details, the emphasis has been placed on the examination of fixed sections of the bone marrow. No differential counts of bone marrow

smears are included, since the author questions their value and is convinced that any significant deviation from the normal can be appreciated without such counts. Many hematologists would not agree with this viewpoint.

Although this is primarily an atlas, the text material relating to embryonic and postnatal hematopoiesis in normal and pathologic conditions is adequately summarized. The meagre bibliography is not a defect in a text of this type.

There is probably basis for argument as to the relative merits of photomicrography and the more idealized presentation of the medical artist. Each has its advantages and disadvantages. In this volume, the author has relied almost exclusively on photomicrography. There are several striking bas-relief photographs showing structural abnormalities in the erythrocytes. An excellent selection of black and white and of colored illustrations of blood and bone marrow smears is presented. In addition, there are many illustrations of fixed sections of the bone marrow, chiefly in black and white.

This volume should help to narrow the gap existing between the clinical hematologist and the pathologist, the former having traditionally relied more on bone marrow smears and the latter on fixed sections of marrow for diagnostic material.

Unfortunately, the only description of the morphology of the various cells which is given in the text is a transcription of the preliminary report on terminology of the committee sponsored by the American Medical Association. That report was intended only to clarify certain points relating to terminology and is not an adequate guide for the student. Furthermore, the volume contains no systematic presentation of illustrations showing the developmental characteristics of the various cells engaged in normal and abnormal hematopoiesis. Rather casual references to morphologic characteristics of cells are made in some of the illustrations. These omissions will limit the usefulness of this volume for those lacking some previous knowledge of blood and bone marrow morphology.

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ESSENTIAL UROLOGY. By Fletcher H. Colby, M.D., Chief of the Urological Service, Massachusetts General Hospital. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1950. \$8.00.

This book, as the author explains in his preface, is not presented as a complete textbook in urology. It is, however, a very valuable volume, and far more than a mere outline of the subject. In almost all respects it will be found quite adequate for the students of medicine for whom it is primarily intended. It will also make an excellent reference book for schools of nursing, while the physicians in general practice will find in it simple descriptions of several conditions which, while not infrequently seen by the specialist, are practically unknown to the profession generally. Excellent examples are such diseases as interstitial cystitis and granular urethritis in the female and Reiter's disease and amicrobic pyuria in the male. Even the urologist will find these more completely discussed than in many of his textbooks.

The work is well written and arranged, easy to read and understand. The typography is good and the many excellent illustrations are well chosen and fitted to the text. There is an adequate index.

Some sections of the book deserve more than casual mention. The one on renal calculi is particularly good. A great deal of space is given to the etiology of calculous disease, and the emphasis on the metabolic factors probably reflects the influence of Albright and his associates. The sections on neoplasms of the various genito-urinary organs are also unusually good, with excellent descriptions of gross and microscopic pathology. The chapter on tuberculosis at the end of the book is almost a classic.